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Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 NIC-01 SAJ-01 DRC-01 OMB-01 IO-14 CU-04 AID-20

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R 301136Z APR 74
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2846
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC
DIA
AMEMBASSY RANGOON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 7008

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, TH, UR
SUBJECT: THAI/SOVIET RELATIONS

REF: A. FBIS BANGKOK D260530Z APR 74; B. BANGKOK 18492 OF 1973

1. IN VIEW OF THAI AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON ANAN PANYARACHUN'S SPEECH (ANALYZED IN A SEPARATE AIRGRAM) TO THE ASSOCIATION FOR ASIAN STUDIES IN BOSTON ON APRIL 1, IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO COMMENT ON THE STATE OF THAI/SOVIET RELATIONS. THERE HAS BEEN A SPATE OF CRITICAL ARTICLES AND EDITORIALS ON THE CONFIDENTIAL

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SOVIET (READ KGB) DIPLOMATIC AND TRADE PRESENCE IN THAILAND

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IN THE VERNACULAR AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE PRESS OF LATE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN A NUMBER OF ARTICLES FAVORING THE MOVEMENT TOWARD CLOSER THAI/SOVIET TRADE AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES.

2. ANAN'S SPEECH PORTENDS INCREASED FRIENDLINESS WITH RUSSIA, BUT AT THE SAME TIME ESCHEWS THE SOVIET COLLECTIVE SECURITY PROPOSAL WHILE THAILAND ATTEMPTS TO ACHIEVE A BALANCE OF INTERESTS WITH THE MAJOR POWERS IN THE AREA. AN EDITORIAL IN "THE NATION" ON APRIL 26 (REF A) WARNS OF THE SOVIET LONG-RANGE FOREIGN POLICY IN WHICH THE COLLECTIVE SECURITY PROPOSAL WOULD BE USED AS AN INSTRUMENT TO GAIN GROUND IN ASIA. THE EDITORIAL SUPPORTS ANAN'S ANALYSIS THAT THE THAI GOVERNMENT REJECTS THE SOVIET SECURITY PROPOSAL AS INAPPROPRIATE AND UNNECESSARY, EITHER TO FILL WHAT SOME THAI SEE AS A VACUUM CAUSED BY AN AMERICAN WITHDRAWAL FROM ASIA, OR AS AN ANTI-CHINESE ALLIANCE.

3. THE SANYA GOVERNMENT'S FOREIGN POLICY IS TO WORK OUT A POSITION FRIENDLY TO ALL GOVERNMENTS WHO WOULD IN TURN PURSUE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THAILAND. IN OTHER WORDS, THE THAI ARE TRYING TO SUPPLEMENT THEIR SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES WITH A MORE INDEPENDENT FOREIGN POLICY WHICH ALLOWS GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES. WHILE NEUTRALISM, IN LINE WITH THE 1971 KUALA LUMPUR DECLARATION, IS A DISTANT THAI GOAL FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA, THE THAI ARE REALISTIC ABOUT CURRENT PROSPECTS IN VIEW OF NORTH VIETNAM'S BELLICOSE INTRANSIGENCE. THUS THOUGH THE THAI HAVE INCREASED THEIR EXCHANGES WITH A NUMBER OF COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, THE MOST RECENT BEING THE VISIT OF A NORTH KOREAN TRADE DELEGATION (SEPTEL), THEY MAINTAIN THESE RELATIONS WITH WHAT COULD ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS A PROPER DISTANCE FROM OR HEALTHY SKEPTICISM FOR THE LITTLE-KNOWN AND TRADITIONAL ENEMY.
KINTNER

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